The American Legion

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November 12, 2020

The Honorable Phil Roe
United States House of Representatives
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Roe:

On behalf of the nearly two million members of The American Legion, I am pleased to express support for H.R. 7469, *Modernizing Veterans' Healthcare Eligibility Act*. This bill would create a bipartisan commission to assess veterans' eligibility for care within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and make recommendations for how to revise and simplify it for the first time since 1996. The commission would be fully bipartisan and comprised of 15 commissioners appointed by the President, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. At least 6 commissioners would be veterans themselves while others would be experts in the delivery of care in VA, in the federal government, and in the private sector.

The American Legion has many resolutions addressing veterans' healthcare eligibility matters and has long advocated for improvements based on these resolutions. In the aggregate, they express that VA's current eligibility criteria are not inclusive enough for this nation's diverse veteran population and have barred critical access to VA healthcare to deserving veterans who served their country. Resolution No. 2: *Reinstate Enrollment of Priority Group 8g Veterans into the Department of Veterans Affairs' Patient Enrollment System* is just one example.

Therefore, The American Legion strongly supports the formation of an advisory commission to evaluate VA's antiquated eligibility system and sees it as an excellent opportunity to bring our resolutions to the table for consideration. Ensuring veterans get the VA healthcare system they deserve and optimally designed to meet their needs is paramount. The American Legion sincerely appreciates your leadership on this legislation and looks forward to working with you to secure passage of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Chanin Nuntavong
Executive Director
Government Affairs